

Karl Marx's MARXISM and THE COMMUNIST MANIFESTO

The GREAT COW ANALOGY

SOCIALISM

You have two cows. Give one to your neighbour.

COMMUNISM

You have two cows. Give both cows to the government, and they may give you some milk.

FASCISM

You have two cows. You give all the milk to the government, and the government sells it.

NAZISM

You have two cows. The government shoots you and takes both cows.

ANARCHISM

You have two cows. Keep both the cows, shoot the government agent, and steal another cow.

CAPITALISM

You have two cows. Sell one cow and buy a bull.

COMMUNISM

according to

Karl MARX

&

Friedrich ENGELS

ie. MARXIST COMMUNISM



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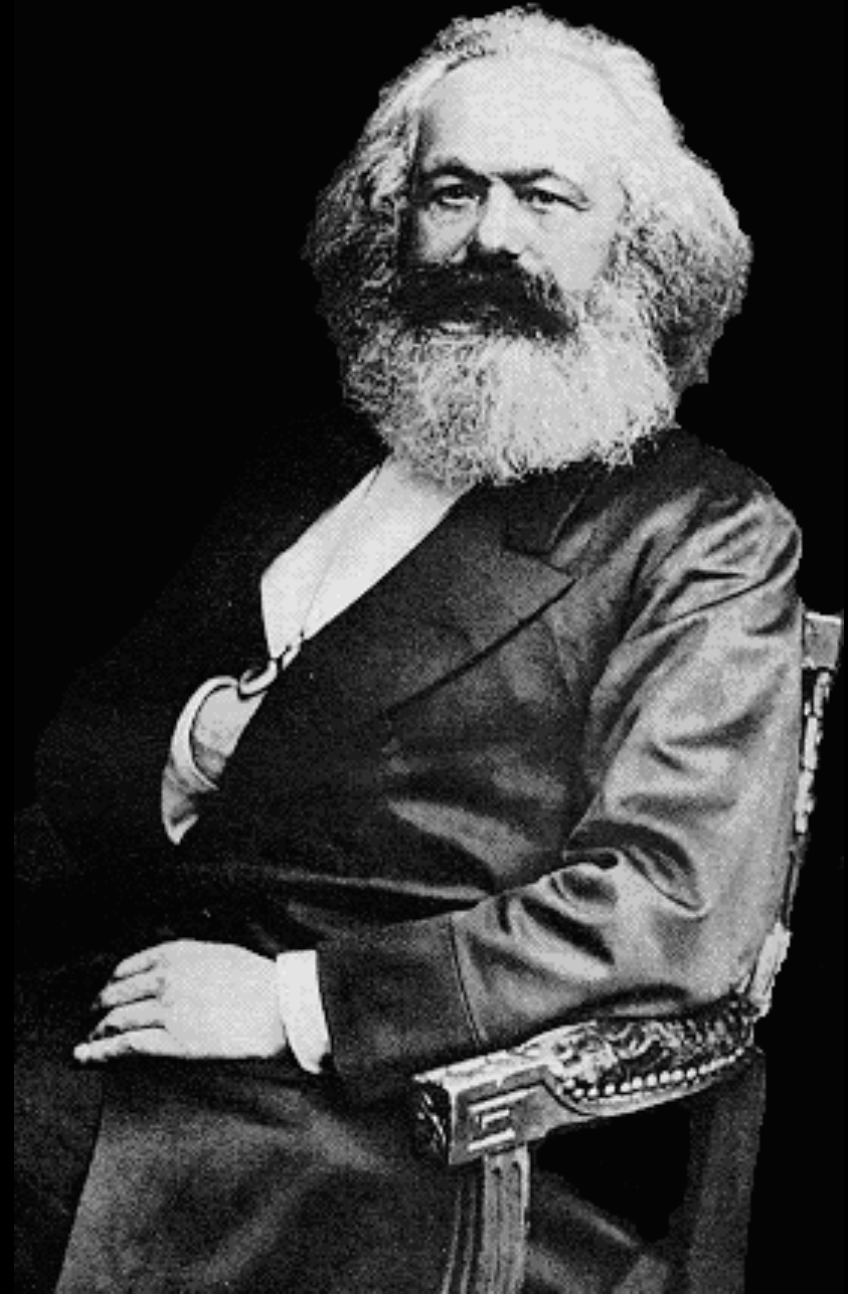
COMMUNISM – noun

1. A theoretical economic system characterised by the collective ownership of property and by the organisation of labour for the common advantage of all members.
2.
 - i. A system of government in which the State plans and controls the economy and a single, often authoritarian party holds power, claiming to make progress towards a higher social order in which goods are equally shared.
 - ii. The Marxist version of the Communist doctrine that advocates the progression of society through the violent overthrow of the dominant classes and the eventual creation of a classless society.

Karl Marx

1818 - 1883

- German philosopher, economist, and social theorist whose ideas have exercised an enormous influence on later thinkers and political activists.



*Let the ruling classes tremble
before a communist revolution: the
workers have nothing to lose by it
but their chains... They have the
world to win... WORKING MEN of
all COUNTRIES, UNITE*

Marx & Engels 1848

*History repeats itself,
first as tragedy, second as
farce.*

Karl Marx (1818-83)

The ideas of the ruling class are in every epoch the ruling ideas, that is, the class which is the ruling material force of society, is at the same time its ruling intellectual force.

Karl Marx (1818-83)

*Capital is dead labour, which,
vampire-like, lives only by
sucking living labour, and lives
the more, the more labour it
sucks.*

Karl Marx (1818-83)

The history of all societies is the 'history of class struggle':

Owners of the 'means of production' **against/versus** workers of the 'means of production'.

PRIMITIVE COMMUNISM

(no government)

= Classless society (based on subsistence living – very few commodities)



Pre Industrial Society FEUDALISM

(usually an absolute monarchy)

= Aristocracy (landowners) **versus** Peasantry (land-workers)



Industrial Society CAPITALISM

(parliamentary democracy defending bourgeois principles)

= Bourgeoisie (factory owners) **versus** Proletariat (factory workers)



Religion is the sigh of the oppressed creature, the heart of a heartless world, and the soul of soulless conditions.

It is the opium of the people.

Karl Marx (1818-83)



Karl Marx
monument,
Moscow 1976.

In brief – the most important ideas of Karl Marx:

1. All societies are made up of classes, and in modern, industrial societies there are two main classes – the capitalists(bourgeoisie) and the proletariat.
2. These two classes must always be in conflict, and in capitalist societies the state – or machinery of government – it used to control the workers.
3. The workers must use revolutionary force to overthrow the capitalists.
4. The revolution will be successful only when the masses of workers become class-conscious – that is, realise how they are cheated by the capitalists.
5. After the revolution the workers will create a classless society in which all men will be equal. As it will no longer be needed, the state or machinery of government, will wither away.

What is a Communist?

*One who has yearnings
for the equal division of unequal
earnings!*

Ebenezer Elliot (1781-1849)

English Pamphleteer

GARDNER 8-10-9
THE MILWAUKEE JOURNAL



Karl Marx among Paris Workers



Marx & Engels in the Print-Shop



A model of Karl Marx's study.



Jenny, Karl
Marx's wife





The banner of
the Paris
Communards

Therefore, according to MARX – history is not a record of wars, monarchs or great statesmen, but rather is a record of how individuals organise themselves to satisfy their **material needs** for food, shelter and clothing.

Marx argued all societies can be characterised by two features:

1. The means of production:

this refers to land, factories, capital, labour, machinery, knowledge – all of which are used in the production of material goods.

2. The relations of production:

this refers to the social relationships people enter into in order to produce goods.

Marx also argued that the **means of production gives rise to the particular set of social relationships.**

According to Marx & Engels – the history of mankind is the history of ‘**class struggle**’ in which working people were always fighting against the people who oppressed them.

In the *Communist Manifesto*, they claimed that:

- Workers (the proletariat) were **exploited** by those who controlled money and invested in business (capitalists)
- Most workers received poor wages and worked in terrible conditions which capitalists made large profits.
- This unfair situation could not continue and would **inevitably** lead to a **communist revolution**.
- The workers would overthrow the capitalists and a new, **classless society** would emerge.

They believed that communism was **the last stage in history**.

Class and class conflict:

The *means* and *relations of production* give rise to unequal and antagonistic social classes – namely, a ‘ruling class’ and one or more ‘subject classes’.

An individual’s class position is determined by his/her *relationship* to the *means of production*. Therefore, it is ownership or non-ownership of the *means of production* that determines class position.

And, again according to Marx, **economic power is the basis of political power.**

Pre-Industrial Society

Feudal society – based on agricultural land

- *Means of production* = land, peasant labour, simple technology, livestock
- *Relations of production* = Landlord **exploits** serf/peasant



Industrial Society

Capitalist society – based on industrial production

- *Means of production* = capital, labour, factory, complex technology/knowledge
- *Relations of production* = Bourgeoisie (capitalist/owner) **exploits** Proletariat (wage worker)

Organizing Working Class

- Wrote **Das Kapital**-about political economy
- 1864- *International Working Men's Association* formed by British and French trade unionists
- This “First International” as an umbrella organization for working class interests
- Marx was very active with this group and served on its General Council